Amendments to the Specification:

1) Delete the text at page 1, lines 17 to 27 in its entirety and replace it with the following:

Technology underlying the rendition of digitally-photographed images, i.e., the permanent recording of images on paper or on similar substrate material, is continually evolving. As one example of such current technology, reference may be made to U.S. patent application serial number 09/872424, filed May 30,2001, assigned to the assignee of the instant application, entitled: "A High Speed Photo-Finishing Apparatus", having co-inventors S. J. Telfer, M. L. Reisch, A. Bouchard, S. B. Lawrence, B. D. Busch, and M. S. Viola, (now abandoned and replaced by U.S. patent application serial no. 10/080,883, filed February 22, 2002 and issued as U.S. Patent 6,842,186) which, along with all of its incorporated-by-reference patents [5,694,484; 6,069,982; 6,128,415; 5,809,164; 4,385,302; 4,447,818; 4,540,992; 5,285,220; 5,711,620; 5,569,347; 5,521,626; 5,897,254; 4,686,549; and 5,244,861] and patent applications, is hereby incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

2) Delete the paragraph extending from page 1, line 27 to page 3, line 10 and replace it with the following:

One technique used in producing "pictures" from digital photography is thermal imaging. In one process for thermal imaging, a thermal print head containing a single column of a number of linearly-disposed thermal print head heating elements can be used. The elements are pressed against the back side of an ink donor ribbon or tape which, in turn, has its ink side pressed against an ink-receptor substrate, which may be paper (or a material having similar reflective properties to paper) bearing a suitable coating for receiving the ink or dye. The two substrates are moved in a direction perpendicular to the column of elements, which are heated by electrical pulses and which cause the ink to liquefy at various points of contact between each element and the donor ribbon corresponding to the occurrence of the pulses. (Hereinafter vertical formations shall be termed "columns" which are defined perpendicular to direction of substrate motion, and horizontal formations shall be termed "rows" which are defined parallel to direction of substrate motion.) The liquefied ink from the donor ribbon is then registered as dots onto the receiver substrate against which the donor ribbon is being pressed. The image is formed as an array of dots (pixels) in the color of the donor ribbon's ink color. Variation in level of color in the image may be achieved by means of two possible methods. In the first method, the area coverage of dye is approximately constant over the whole area of the pixel,

and the amount of dye (the dye "density") of approximately constant coverage varies according to the amount of energy supplied by the print head to that particular pixel. This method is hereinafter referred to as "variable density" printing, and is commonly practiced in the thermal transfer imaging technique known as "dye diffusion thermal transfer", or D2T2. In the second method, the size of dots within the area of one pixel varies according to energy supplied by the print head, these dots containing only a single density of dye (de facto, its maximum density). The dots are so small that they cannot be individually distinguished by the naked eye, and so the overall level of color is perceived as an average of the almost total absorption of light in the proportion of the viewed area occupied by dots, and the almost complete (diffuse) reflection of light in unprinted areas. This technique of thermal transfer printing is known hereinafter as "variable dot" printing. A particularly preferred method for variable dot imaging is disclosed in U. S. patent application serial number 09/745,700, filed December 21, 2000, entitled: "Thermal Transfer Recording System", having co-inventors Michael J. Arnost, Alain Bouchard, Yongqi Deng, Edward J. Dombrowski, Russell A. Gaudiana, Fariza B. Hasan, Serajul Haque, John L. Marshall, Stephen J. Telfer, William T. Vetterling and Michael S. Viola, now U.S. Patent 6,537,410 and in U. S. provisional patent application serial number 60/294,528, filed May 30,

2001, entitled: "Thermal Mass Transfer Imaging System", having co-inventors Edward P. Lindholm, Stephen J. Telfer and Michael S. Viola, (the benefit of which was claimed in U.S. patent application serial no. 10/159871, filed May 30, 2003, now U.S. Patent 6,761,788) both of which are assigned to the assignee of the instant application, and both of which, along with all of their incorporated-by-reference patents and patent applications, are hereby incorporated by reference herein in their entireties.